

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 NIC-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

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AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

USCINCSO FOR POLAD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1585

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PE, PFOR,

SUBJECT: CHILE ACCUSES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM OF ATTEMPTING
PROVOKE PERU-CHILE TENSIONS

REF: LIMA 2393

1. SUMMARY: IN PRESS CONFERENCE, FONMIN HUERTA ACCUSED
"INTERNATIONAL MARXISM" OF ATTEMPT TO CREATE TENSIONS BETWEEN CHILE
AND PERU, AS PART OF LARGER CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILEAN JUNTA. LINE
ECHOED PRIVATELY TO AMBASSADOR BY ACTING UNDER SECRETARY FOREIGN
RELATIONS, WHO STRESSED CUBAN ROLE IN PURPORTED CAMPAIGN. GOC
APPEARS CONCERNED WITH TONE OF REPORTING ON STATE OF PERU-CHILE
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RELATIONS AND APPARENTLY HOPES COOL SITUATION DOWN. SUBJECT OF

RELATIONS WITH PERU AND POSSIBILITY OF ARMED CONFLICT COMES UP IN CONVERSATIONS AT ALL LEVELS IN SANATIAGO THESE DAYS, AND SOME CONTACTS RANGING FROM POLITICIANS TO FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICERS SEE U.S. AS ONLY POWER CAPABLE OF STOPPING EVENTUAL OUTBREAK. END SUMMARY

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. IN PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 27, HUERTA DEPICTED "INTERNATIONAL MARXISM" AS RESPONSIBLE FOR TENSIONS BETWEEN CHILE AND PERU, AS PART OF LARGER CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILEAN JUNTA. HUERTA NOTED "COMMON DESTINY" OF TWO COUNTRIES, LINKED BY LANGUAGE, TRADITIONS, COMMON ORIGIN, RELIGION, ANDEAN PACT, AND NOW MILITARY AND NATIONALISTIC GOVERNMENTS PURSUING WELFARE OF THEIR PEOPLES. FON MIN WARNED CHILEANS NOT RPT NOT TO ALLOW PROVOCATIONS IN FORM OF BIASED NEWS REPORTS TO PREJUDICE GOC DETERMINATION TO HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY NEIGHBORS.

3. SPECIAL REFERENCE MADE BY HUERTA TO REPORTING OF FRENCH LE MONDE JOURNALIST MARCEL NIEDERGAN, RECENTLY REFUSED ENTRY INTO CHILE, WHO QUOTED IN REPORT FROM PARIS DATED MARCH 26 AS STATING PERUVIAN PRESIDENT VELASCO AND GEN. JARRIN DO NOT RPT NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY OF WAR WITH CHILE.

4. HUERTA SAID GOC WILL RESPOND SOON TO VELASCO CALL FOR ARMS FREEZE. VELASCO PROPOSITION IN FULL ACCORD WITH TRADITIONAL CHILEAN POLICY, AS EXPRESSED FOR EXAMPLE IN ARGENTINE-CHILEAN NAVAL ARMS LIMITATION PACT OF MAY 1962.

5. GOC AMB TO CHILE GARCIA VISITED MINISTRY FOREIGN RELATIONS MORNING MARCH 27, JUST BEFORE HUERTA PRESS CONFERENCE. VISIT DESCRIBED BY GARCIA TO PRESS AS "ROUTINE". HE TOLD REPORTERS RELATIONS BETWEEN PERU AND CHILE MUCH BETTER THAN THEY APPEAR IN PRESS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. I RAISED SUBJECT CHILE-PERU RELATIONS MARCH 28 WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL CARLOS VALENZUELA, WHO IS AT PRESENT ACTING UNDER SECRETARY. VALENZUELA VOICED PRETTY MUCH SAME VIEWS AS HUERTA, BUT STRESSED ROLE PLAYED BY CUBANS WHO HE SAW AS HAVING INFLUENCE ON SOME PERUVIAN MILITARY. ALTHOUGH EXPRESSING DOUBT THAT THERE IS ANY MATERIAL REASON FOR ARMED CONFLICT, NEVERTHELESS EXISITING WAR PSYCHOSIS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE TWO COUNTRIES IN HIS OPINION SERVED MARXISTS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN VENGEANCE AGAINST CHILE. REFERRING IN DISPARAGING TERMS TO LE MONDE'S REPORTING STYLE, HE NEVERTHELESS DID NOT DOUBT THAT VELASCO AND JARRIN MIGHT HAVE SAID WHAT NIEDERGAN REPORTED BUT THOUGHT LIKELY CONTEXT WAS SPECULATION IN INFORMAL CONVERSATION. HE SAID PERUVIAN AMB GARCIA'S TALK WITH HUERTA, IN WHICH VALENZUELA AND FOREIGN MINISTRY POLITICAL ADVISER ENRIQUE BERNSTEIN ALSO TOOK PART, HAD BEEN OVERVIEW OF QUESTION

WHICH DEMONSTRATED THAT THERE ARE NO ISSUES BETWEEN CHILE AND PERU SUFFICIENT TO GIVE SUBSTANCE TO KIND OF TALK ONE HEARS THESE DAYS. HE REALISTICALLY DISMISSED SIGNIFICANCE OF MOVEMENT BY PERU OF ITS NEW TANKS INTO SOUTH, REMARKING THAT HAD BEEN MOVED NORTH IT WOULD BE THE ECUADORIAN MILITARY WHO WOULD BE WORRIED AND AFTER ALL PERU DID HAVE TO KEEP TANKS SOMEWHERE, OUTSIDE LIMA.

7. COMMENT: WHILE CHILEANS TEND THESE DAYS TO SEE COMMUNISTS BEHIND EVERY NEFARIOUS HAPPENING OR OPPOSITION STATEMENT, GOC APPEARS CONCERNED WITH TONE OF RECENT REPORTING ON STATE OF PERU-CHILE RELATIONS, AND APPARENTLY HOPES TO COOL SITUATION WHICH BEGINNING TO BRING ANXIOUS QUESTIONS FROM NON-OFFICIAL CHILEANS TO SUPPOSEDLY BETTER INFORMED DIPLOMATIC FRIENDS. SOME CONTACTS, INCLUDING POLITICIANS AND MIDDLE LEVEL FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, SUGGEST VERY INFORMALLY TO EMBASSY THAT U.S. HAS OBLIGATION TO STEP IN AND "SHAKE BOTH COUNTRIES BY SCRUFF OF NECKS" TO STOP NONSENCE AND MISINTERPRETATIONS OF INTENTIONS. IMPLICATION OBVIOUS THAT MILITARY NOT PAYING ENOUGH ATTENTION TO COOLER HEADS AND MORE SOPHISTICATED CAREER DIPLOMATS, AND U.S. SUPPORT WOULD BE WELCOME IN THEIR EFFORTS. CONCILIATORY GOP STATEMENTS BEING NOTED IN CHILEAN PRESS.

8. HUERTA'S REFERENCE TO OBSCURE 1902 TREATY WITH ARGENTINA COULD POSSIBLY BE MEANT TO IMPLY THAT CHILE MIGHT CONSIDER SIMILAR FORMAL ARRAN
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